

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 270, 14 December 2018

Introduction

Apologies – I’m only now catching up with quite a sizeable backlog of emails. I have included items from earlier in the year, rather than omitting them, as some of you may not otherwise see them. I have now reduced my inbox from over 1,000 emails to just over 300 ...

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Statement on Visit to the United Kingdom, by Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

web version:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23881&LangID=E>

pdf (includes footnotes):

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Poverty/EOM_GB_16Nov2018.pdf

Just in case you haven’t seen this strong report:

“The UK is the world’s fifth largest economy, it contains many areas of immense wealth, its capital is a leading centre of global finance, its entrepreneurs are innovative and agile, and despite the current political turmoil, it has a system of government that rightly remains the envy of much of the world. It thus seems patently unjust and contrary to British values that so many people are living in poverty. This is obvious to anyone who opens their eyes to see the immense growth in foodbanks and the queues waiting outside them, the people sleeping rough in the streets, the growth of homelessness, the sense of deep despair that leads even the Government to appoint a Minister for suicide prevention and civil society to report in depth on unheard of levels of loneliness and isolation. And local authorities, especially in England, which perform vital roles in providing a real social safety net have been gutted by a series of government policies. Libraries have closed in record numbers, community and youth centers have been shrunk and underfunded, public spaces and buildings including parks and recreation centers have been sold off. While the labour and housing markets provide the crucial backdrop, the focus of this report is on the contribution made by social security and related policies.” [p1]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Tackling the homelessness crisis: why and how you should fund systemically

https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/tackling-the-homelessness-crisis-why-and-how-you-should-fund-systemically/?utm_source=New%20Philanthropy%20Capital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10078947_Weekly%20email%2028.11.18

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Update*, 28 Nov 2018)

Although aimed primarily at funders, this report from New Philanthropy Capital has a really useful collection of stats and other background info about why and how people become homeless.

“Lack of valid ID identified as key barrier to moving on from crime”

<https://www.nacro.org.uk/news/nacro-news/lack-of-valid-id-identified-as-key-barrier-to-moving-on-from-crime/>

(Source: Clinks *Light Lunch*, 563, 30 Nov 2018)

“Nacro supports more than 30,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged people across the country every year, including those at different stages of contact with the criminal justice system. A lack of valid ID – such as a driver’s licence or passport – in the weeks leading up to, during and after release from prison, is seen by Nacro staff as one of the biggest obstacles people face which has an impact on their chances of moving away from crime. Without valid ID, people leaving prison can face difficulties getting a job, receiving benefit payments as a vital source of initial income to survive, or securing a safe place to stay to avoid homelessness.”

“Revealed: the stark evidence of everyday racial bias in Britain”

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/02/revealed-the-stark-evidence-of-everyday-racial-bias-in-britain?CMP=share_btn_tw

Just in case you haven’t seen the shocking results of the research by *The Guardian*.

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Pay as you go? Internship pay, quality and access in the graduate jobs market

Full report: <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Pay-As-You-Go-1.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.suttontrust.com/research-paper/internships-pay-as-you-go/>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 6 Dec 2018)

This report from the Sutton Trust “[...] uses survey data from thousands of young graduates and employers to paint a detailed picture of graduate internships for the first time.” [Taken from summary]

The MA has drawn attention to the report in a news post, “Unpaid internships are ‘huge social mobility issue’”,

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/05122018->

unpaid-internships-social-mobility-sutton-trust?utm_campaign=1363076_06122018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,T7R8,27LU0M,30I9N,1. According to the MA, the report:

“[...] found that nearly 90% of arts internships were unpaid.

It also identified expectations that young people needed to complete several internships. The arts had one of the highest rates of placements per person, with 32% of interns completing three or more.

Sir Peter Lampl, the founder of the Sutton Trust, pinpointed culture as a desirable sector that is relatively inaccessible to young people from low and moderate-income backgrounds due to the prevalence of unpaid internships [...]

The report also found that 34% of arts placements showed none of the characteristics of a good internship. Former interns had high rates of unemployment or figured among those on the lowest salaries.”

“Massive rise in released prisoners sleeping rough”

<http://www.russellwebster.com/rdafoi/>

(Source: *Clinks Members Policy Briefing*, Dec 2018)

As the blogpost’s author, Russell Webster, says:

“This blog post [...] shows just how much the number of homeless prisoners has risen over the last two years. The findings are truly shocking.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Just a Cuppa – reducing social isolation in Norfolk”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/05/21/just-a-cuppa-reducing-social-isolation-in-norfolk/>

Guest post on the Libraries Taskforce blog by Kerry Murray (Locality Manager for King’s Lynn, West and North Norfolk Libraries and the lead on their Library and Information Service Loneliness Project).

As part of “In Good Company” (the county-wide initiative to drive out loneliness), the Library Service launched “The Libraries Loneliness Project” in November 2016. Its aim was to deliver a consistent countywide offer – so that any lonely person could be signposted to any library knowing that there would be quality and effective support available.

As part of this, they also introduced the “Just a Cuppa” activities:

“People are invited to come along to the library each week for a cup of tea and conversation. This now takes place in 34 out of 47 libraries. These sessions provide company and the possibility of friendship. They

are a low key way to join a group and are ideal for people who are out of the habit of socialising. Some libraries include an option of jigsaws, puzzle books and newspapers at the session to help aid conversation.”

“Oldham library sensory room”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/05/11/oldham-library-sensory-room/>

Guest post on the Libraries Taskforce blog by Subnum Hariff-Khan (Library and Information Manager for Oldham Libraries), which introduces their new sensory room at Oldham Central Library:

“The room is equipped with digital sensory technology including musical touch wall, LED interactive bubble tube, fibre optic slideglow, LED interactive infinity tunnel and an LED sound activated step light.”

Their aims for the multi-sensory room are:

- “to support the health and well-being and the learning and cultural needs of children and adults with autism, sensory impairments, special educational needs, and dementia as well supporting people who are suffering from stress and anxiety
- to offer a range of programmed activities in the space including sessions for babies, young children, teenagers and adults
- to provide services that support the borough’s vision and that of Greater Manchester’s to become autism and dementia friendly”

“New Voices”

<https://www.cilips.org.uk/blog/new-voices/>

(Source: *CILIPS Newsletter*, 51, Dec 2018)

“New Voices provides a publishing platform for current postgraduate students and new career professionals emerging into the ILS field in Scotland. It is aimed at students and run by students [...]

New Voices has decided on a series of topics for next year and would like to solicit submissions on dealing with mental health or disabilities. They would also like to hear about placement or graduate traineeship experiences.”

Further info on above weblink.

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Accessible Digitisation Projects – Stephanie Nield”

<https://aranewprofessionals.wordpress.com/2018/12/07/accessible-digitisation-projects-stephanie-nield/>

Very helpful article in which Stephanie Nield (Archivist at Leonard Cheshire) gives advice on making digitisation projects accessible to disabled people.

Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Social and employment situation of people with disabilities

https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef18023en.pdf

(Source: email from Social Europe, 10 Dec 2018)

This policy brief from Eurofound examines the social situation of disabled people in the EU. Key findings include:

- “In 2016, more people with disabilities reported being employed than was the case in 2011, and fewer reported being unable to work because of their disability.
- Although employment rates have improved both for men and women with disabilities, the figure is higher for men (55%) than it is for women (47%).
- The employment rate of people with disabilities continues to be lower than that of people without disabilities, but the employment gap between the two groups narrowed between 2011 and 2016.
- In 2016, people with disabilities lagged further behind their non-disabled counterparts in completion rates for tertiary education than was the case in 2011. This finding is particularly worrying considering that the employment gap for disabled people with a tertiary degree is significantly smaller than it is for those with lower educational attainment.
- More people with disabilities are participating in social and sports activities than previously. There no longer is a gap in social participation rates between people with and without disabilities.” [[p4 – and more findings listed there]

Disability issues – Other Agencies

Council for Disabled Children. Factsheet #6: Developing a Supportive Environment

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/%236%20Supportive%20Environments.pdf>

(Source: NCB *E-Zine*, 28 Nov 2018)

“This resource has been co-produced with children and young people to provide guidance on developing an environment which is responsive to disabled children and young people’s support needs, and views them in a positive light. It consists of two mutually reinforcing aspects: ‘building a supportive environment’ and ‘talking about support needs’.”

“Working for Change”

<http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/you-can-help/campaigns-and-influencing/working-for-change/working-for-change/>

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *Newsletter*, 6 Dec 2018)

Action on Hearing Loss have launched a range of practical resources to highlight the simple actions that employers can take to make the workplace more inclusive for people with deafness and hearing loss.

“Our Working for Change campaign aims to change attitudes to hearing loss in the workplace by confronting them head on. Major employers,

such as EY, RBS and HMRC, are now making supporting staff with hearing loss a priority, and we can support you to do the same.”

There is also a link to the Employers’ Hub (<http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/how-we-help/businesses-and-employers/employer-hub/>) which is:

“[...] designed to give you the information and confidence you need to ensure your employees who are deaf or have hearing loss are supported to fulfil their potential.

Our practical guidance covers everything from making your recruitment process accessible, to creating an inclusive workplace culture that encourages your employees to be open about their hearing loss and bring their whole selves to work. By sharing tips and real stories, we’ll show you how supporting employees who are deaf or have hearing loss isn’t difficult – and why doing so makes business sense.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

The United Nations Global Compact for Migration

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8459#fullreport>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 592, 10 Dec 2018)

This House of Commons Library “Briefing Paper” sets out what the Compact involves (and also who has – and has not – signed up to it). The key points are its ‘guiding principles’ [pp7-9] and “The 23 Objectives” [pp9-10].

There is also a useful, brief article in *The Conversation*, “Global Compact for Migration: what is it and why are countries opposing it?”, https://theconversation.com/global-compact-for-migration-what-is-it-and-why-are-countries-opposing-it-106654?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%207%202018%20-%201181010749&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%207%202018%20-%201181010749+CID_77691cb5c86c0e84cc30e6c79b09f9d1&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Global%20Compact%20for%20Migration%20what%20is%20it%20and%20why%20are%20countries%20opposing%20it.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

The embedding of state hostility: a background paper on the Windrush Scandal

<http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wpmedia.outlandish.com/irr/2018/11/19150132/Embedding-State-hostility-v4.pdf>

(Source: IRR News, 8-21 Nov 2018)

Important new paper from the Institute of Race Relations, which looks at what led to the creation of the UK’s “hostile environment” strategy, the impact on new

arrivals (not just the Windrush generation), and the real meanings behind “illegal immigrants”.

“Where have the UK’s 10,000 Syrian refugees gone?”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-43826163>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Apr-May 2018)

Apologies – this is quite old news, but is still of great significance. Report by the BBC, April 2018.

Still an ordeal: the move-on period for new refugees

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-speak-up-for-change/improving-the-lives-of-refugees/refugee-move-on-period##>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 592, 10 Dec 2018)

This report from the British Red Cross looks at the issues arising from:

“[...] the 28-day ‘move-on’ period that new refugees are given following a positive decision on their asylum, and the frequent impossibility of making all the necessary arrangements to move on within that time frame. These arrangements must generally include opening a bank account, finding a job and/or applying for mainstream benefits (and receiving the first wages or benefit payment), and finding and moving into new accommodation. On day 28, any asylum support they have been receiving, including payments and accommodation, comes to an end. Our research demonstrates that this cliff edge often plunges people into destitution: the way the system is designed makes it almost impossible for new refugees to support themselves in that short time.” [p1]

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“How Gloucestershire libraries are supporting business growth”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/12/04/how-gloucestershire-libraries-are-supporting-business-growth/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Katie Smith (Digital Library Services Manager for Gloucestershire Libraries), which outlines how Gloucestershire Libraries joined the “Growth Hub” ‘movement’:

“In Gloucestershire the Growth Hub has a strong digital presence and all local businesses can access online business support. This is complimented by a network of local venues. There are two Tier 1 Growth Hubs - one located at the University of Gloucestershire and the other at the Royal Agricultural University - that bring together a number of support services for businesses in ambitious and stimulating spaces.

Smaller Tier 2 Growth Hubs are located in partner venues such as local council offices. Our 31 libraries are Tier 3 Growth Hubs offering sign posting, digital access and space for meetings. As you can see in the map below, our 31 Growth Hubs help provide excellent coverage across our rural and urban areas.”

There is further info at: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/library-activities-and-services/library-growth-hub-network/>.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Adult Participation in Learning survey

<https://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-work/promoting-learning-and-skills/participation-survey/>

(Source: email from Learning and Work Institute”, Dec 2018)

The Learning & Work Institute has just published “[...] twenty years of data asking adults whether they are taking part in learning and their motivations for doing so. It’s a treasure trove of data, showing stubborn inequalities by social group, previous level of qualification etc. Importantly, the main reason for not taking part in learning was lack of interest or not seeing the relevance. That suggests we need a big focus on inspiring people to learn and showing the difference learning can make.” [Taken from their email]